



## **NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

### **Notice of Permit Modification Received Under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978**

**AGENCY:** National Science Foundation.

**ACTION:** Notice of Permit Modification Request Received and Permit Issued.

**SUMMARY:** The National Science Foundation (NSF) is required to publish a notice of requests to modify permits issued to conduct activities regulated under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978.

This is the required notice of a requested permit modification and permit issued.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Polly Penhale, ACA Permit Officer, Office of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314; 703-292-7420; e-mail: [ACAPERMITS@NSF.GOV](mailto:ACAPERMITS@NSF.GOV).

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

The National Science Foundation (NSF), as directed by the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-541, 45 CFR 670 as amended by the Antarctic Science, Tourism and Conservation Act of 1996, has developed regulations for the establishment of a permit system for various activities in Antarctica and designation of certain animals and certain geographic areas requiring special protection.

**Description of Permit Modification Requested:** The Foundation issued a permit (ACA 2017-021) to Leidos Innovations Group on October 30, 2016. The issued permit allows the applicant entry into 8 Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPAs) in the McMurdo/ Ross Sea region of Antarctica. Entry into the specially protected areas is permitted to support the research and logistic objectives of the United States Antarctic Program.

The applicant requests a permit modification to extend the expiration date of the permit until January 31, 2023.

The Environmental Officer has reviewed the modification request and has determined that the amendment is not a material change to the permit, and it will have a less than a minor or transitory impact.

**DATES:** October 30, 2016 – January 31, 2023

The permit modification was issued on August 17, 2021.

**Erika N. Davis,**

*Program Specialist,*

*Office of Polar Programs.*

[FR Doc. 2021-17941 Filed: 8/20/2021 8:45 am; Publication Date: 8/23/2021]